

Memorandum

To: FILE
From: Ryan Jackson, EPA Chief of Staff
Date: April 21, 2018
Re: Relationship with (b) (6)

Due to the recent media reports (b) (6) issues, I have printed off my emails with (b) (6) over my employment at EPA to date.

I have maintained a personal friendship with (b) (6) for a number of years which began when I started working for Senator Inhofe on the Environment and Public Works Committee and his personal office. Being both from Oklahoma and working in politics I would regularly see (b) (6) at a number of events, fundraisers, and see each other socially.

Since being at EPA, (b) (6) has emailed a few times recommending people to consider hiring at EPA, recommending that Administrator Pruitt meet with (b) (6) due to his involvement in Chesapeake Bay programs and suggested opportunities to work with (b) (6) on Chesapeake Bay issues, suggested meeting with the Puerto Rico Financial Control Board, sent me articles on environmental matters or raised environmental matters like the Paris Accord or HFC policy, offered help with a nominee, sent me social invitations, and most recently inquired on a North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality issue.

I appreciated (b) (6) recommendations for hires at EPA. Although I interviewed one candidate and was unable to interview others, I was not able to hire any of the recommendations at this point. However, I appreciated his and anyone else's recommendations for hires at EPA. The vast majority of hires in political capacities at EPA have come from my network and the expanded network of friends with whom I have worked for my 15 years in Washington, D.C. I have appreciated recommendations from a variety of people, and word of mouth has led me to some great people.

I also appreciated (b) (6) recommendations to meet with the (b) (6) as one of many stakeholders in the Chesapeake Bay. I hope we get the opportunity to work with this gentleman and the Chesapeake Bay Commission in the future. I was unable to meet ultimately with the Puerto Rico Financial Control Board although it would be very important for EPA leadership to meet as often as possible with Puerto Rican authorities on the continued financing of hurricane recovery. At no point receiving emails about the Paris Accord, HFCs, or another other issue did I believe (b) (6) was advocating for a particular position or client. Many of the emails I simply received and may have mentioned to him when I saw him next or not at all. I knew (b) (6) considered himself as a representative and lobbyist for (b) (6). If he approached me in a lobbying capacity, he would always state from the beginning of the conversation who he was representing. I also knew that (b) (6) was nearing retirement. The vast majority of all communications with me were more advice from someone who has worked in Washington, D.C. for a career than lobbying like when he offered help on a nominee or simply wanted to get together socially as we have done for a number of years.

Finally, (b) (6) contacted me about a month ago regarding a North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality matter. I have not had the opportunity to inquire into that.